

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,945

Examiner

Alicia M. Harrington

Applicant(s)

HOSHINO, HIDETAKA

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 5/3/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 2, a fundus camera comprising an anterior-segment observation optical system for observing an anterior segment or the eye via the objective lens and the optical path bifurcating member which is arranged on the optical path; and a correction member, which is arranged on an optical path of the fundus observation/photographing optical system, for correcting a deviation of an optical axis of the fundus observation/photographing optical system caused by arrangement of the optical path bifurcating member on the optical path, and further comprising an inserting and removing unit which performs insertion and removal of the optical path bifurcating member and the correction member with respect to the optical path as claimed.

Regarding claim 4, prior art fails to teach a fundus camera comprising an correction member, which is arranged on an optical path of the fundus observation/photographing optical system, for correcting a deviation of an optical axis of the fundus observation/photographing optical system caused by arrangement of the optical path bifurcating member on the optical path, and further comprising: an illumination optical system for fundus observation, for projecting illumination light for fundus observation; an alignment index projection optical system for projecting alignment index light onto the anterior segment of the eye; and a focus index projection optical system for projecting focus index light onto the fundus, wherein the optical path bifurcating member is a

wavelength-selecting mirror having a wavelength-selecting property of reflecting a wavelength of the alignment index light and transmitting a wavelength of the illumination light for fundus observation and a wavelength of the focus index light as claimed;

Regarding claim 8, prior art fails to teach a fundus camera comprising a correction member, which is arranged on an optical path of the fundus observation/photographing optical system, for correcting a deviation of an optical axis of the fundus observation/photographing optical system caused by arrangement of the optical path bifurcating member on the optical path, and further comprising: an alignment index projection optical system for projecting alignment index light onto the anterior segment of the eye; a focus index projection optical system for projecting focus index sight onto the fundus; an alignment unit which performs alignment of the fundus observation/photographing optical system with the eye based on a detection result on an alignment index image formed on the anterior segment of the eye; and a focusing unit which performs focusing of the fundus observation/photographing optical system based on a detection result on a focus index image formed on the fundus as claimed.

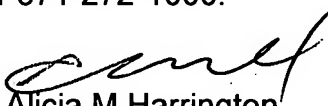
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Harrington whose telephone number is 571 272 2330. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571 272 2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873

Amh